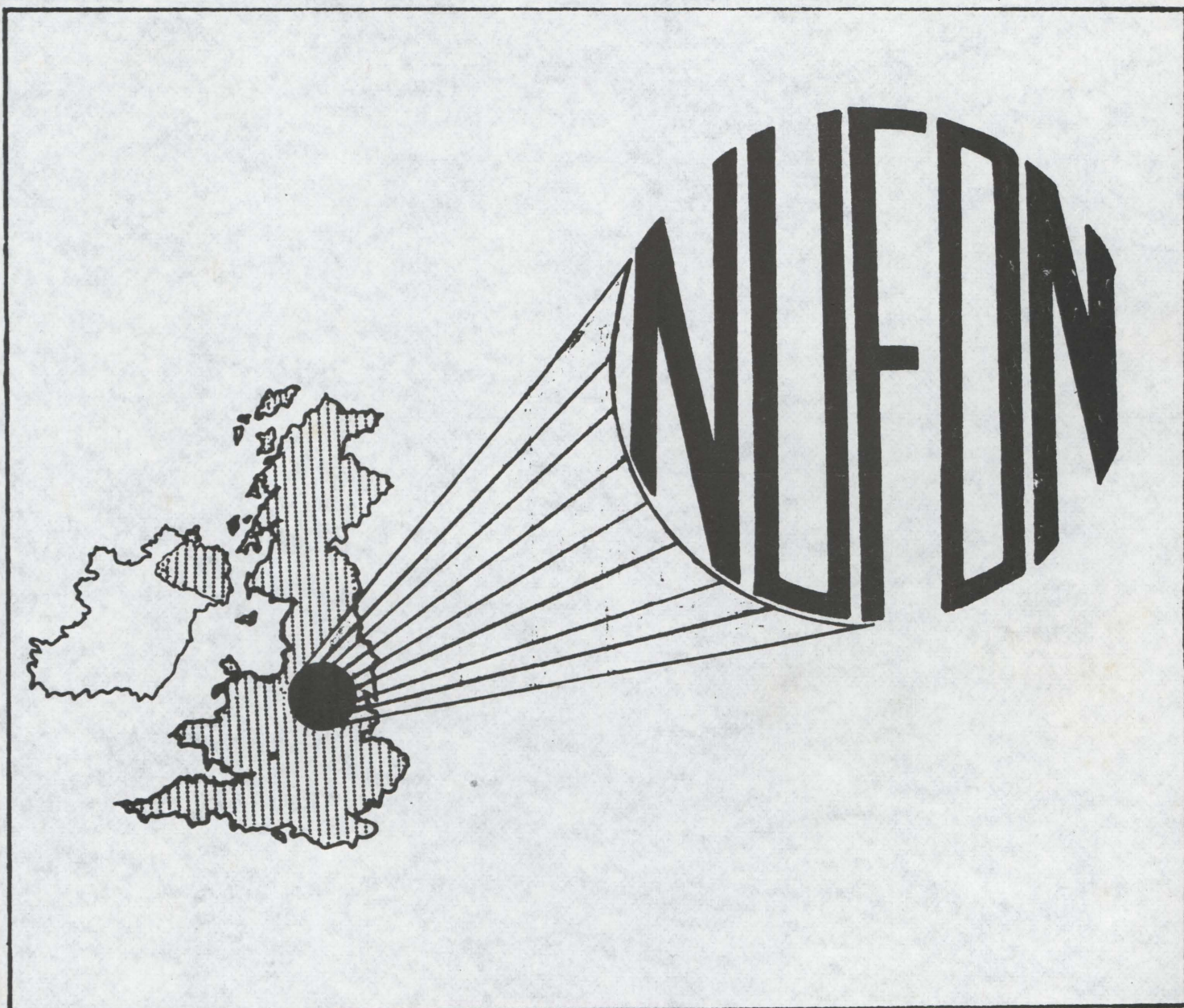


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

55



NEWSLETTER of the NORTHERN UFO NETWORK (NUFON)

23 SUNNINGDALE DRIVE, IRLAM, LANCASHIRE, M30 6NJ

Edited by: Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall.

"NUFON is a liaison system for independant UFO organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. It acts as a co-ordination centre for investigation, research and general information".

December 1978

Issue 55

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EDITORIAL: 'Of flashy moths.... and other things'

"Some sightings of UFOs just might be caused by insect swarms, according to two scientists who work at a US Government laboratory concerned with insect behaviour. In a paper published this week Philip Callahan and RW Mankin reveal that there is a correlation between some UFO sightings and infestations of spruce budworm moths. The two researchers have also shown that visible light can be generated by placing insects in an electric field. The very strong atmospheric electric fields that can arise under certain weather conditions could pull electrons away from conducting materials, such as the body fluids of an insect. An avalanche of such electrons would excite atmospheric gas molecules which would then emit visible light. The discharge produced by a single insect is so small that it is visible for only some 7 metres in a dimly lit laboratory. However, spruce budworm moths can swarm in clouds as big as 100Km long and 25Km wide and the light from such a swarm might be mistaken for a UFO. Some of the sightings analysed occurred just when mass migrations would be expected. They suggest that if insects are responsible for some UFO sightings, then UFO records might be used to throw some light on insect migration.".... first appeared in NEW SCIENTIST, London, ('The weekly review of science and technology') Vol 80 No 1127 2 NOV 1978

Well - what are we honestly to make of the above? It would be foolish indeed to reject it out of hand. After all they have done us the credit of taking note of our data. It seems a perfectly viable proposition, especially sometimes (such as when shape changing or amorphous glowing phenomena are witnessed).

If one is honest about UFO investigation then it must be accepted that many of our treasured possessions - the exotic UFOs - may well have mundane solutions. Does that make them any more or less significant? Of course it would be tremendous to prove that UFOs are some fantastic technological machine, but we do not yet seem able to do this. Perhaps we never shall be able to. This frantic search after the incredible makes most ufologists shy away when a down to earth hypothesis is proposed. Flashy moths as UFOs... tosh, tosh.... leave our spaceships alone. Stop trying to play Philip Klass you sceptics.

This is a predictable, if deplorable reaction. The chief reason why science treats us all like a bunch of amateur idiots is because we spend our time defending or attacking the merits and demerits of one fanciful hypothesis and then another. What we do not do is examine extrapolations of present phenomena - in other words the scientific UFO isn't fun but the science fiction UFO is. Small wonder we have apparently opposing camps instead of, in general, cooperative endeavours.

Flashy moths are but one example, there are others. There is a type of UFO event that has been frequently described - three 'tennis balls' of light in a triangle. It often hovers for some minutes and then moves off. It sounds like an optical phenomenon (although not one anybody knows about) - but who is interested in that? What too of atmospheric effects, weather phenomena - there are lots of things around in the UFO records (even ones, I contend, with associated effects such as EM or physiological reactions). Surely it is our job to bring these to light?

The exotic UFO may or may not exist, but to disregard the solid data that we have in our midst in pursuit of this holy grail may be thrilling and ego boosting but it is not science - and, so far as I am concerned, it is not ufology either.

THE EDITORS WOULD LIKE TO WISH A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL UFOLOGISTS EVERYWHERE
 - AND A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS.... AND ACTIVE 1979..... Jenny Randles & Paul Whetnall

NEWS ROUND-UP..... David Rees of MAPIT

Welcome to the last roundup of 1978- how the year soon goes! Some news from the Redditch UFO Study & Investigation Group (C/O Balph Waugh 146 Heathfield Rd, Redditch Worcestershire B97 5RD). They are getting themselves well and truly organised and are basing a new form on the USAAF 'Technical Information Sheet'. The ex-investigation and research team from Britains oldest local group (British Flying Saucer Bureau in Bristol) have broken away to form their own group - UFO INTERNATIONAL. They also plan their own magazine called 'Quest' - which will apparantly be distributed FREE! Write to John Casey 34 Court Farm Rd Whitchurch Bristol Avon BS14 0EG. NUFON gets a plug in "19" a womens fashion magazine! There is an article in there about Jenny Randles (December issue) - and you get a free comb with it too! Another magazine to note is the December issue of PHOTOGRAPHY. In there is an article entitled "Has anyone photographed a UFO?" which is quite a comprehensive piece about the subject quoting Jenny Randles, Peter Warrington, Barry King and our Kodak analyst friends. Stephen Cleaver of FUFOR tells me that they have been working on some new skywatch equipment. They incorporate more accurate detection and recording techniques. I think they should be praised for their aims to provide evidence more acceptable to scientists. John Watson of CHRYSIS recently did a radio programme and has now been asked to provide a series of lectures for the YMCA at Sunderland. Malcolm Jay, who has designed the very popular UFO detector available at £9 has just designed a new pocket sized model (great for skywatches). This will be a bit cheaper too - more details from Malcolm at 102 Nelson Rd Chingford London E4 9AS. Finally, if you were intrgued by the story of the Australian pilot who vanished when chasing a UFO there is more information in Flight International Vol 114 No 3633 - and I understand FSR have an article on the case from researcher Bill Chalker over there. Well - thats about all - merry christmas - keep that news about YOUR group coming in - I'll see you in 1979!!

A special mention to researcher Derek James who has had to severely cut back his work in the field for UFORA Staffs and NUFON due to ill health. Take it easy - and get well soon..... I'm sure that goes from us all.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH..... The big news is the publication of FUFORs first magazine. Entitled UFO INSIGHT it is a very worthy addition to the ufo scene and well recommended with several very interesting articles on a range of topics. Contributors to issue one outside the FUFOR team are Tony Pace of BUFORA, Derek Hart (an astronomy lecturer) and the UFOIN trio Andy Collins, Jenny Randles and David Sydeserff. 25p per issue or £1.20 (post inc) for 6 issues c/o Mark Tyreall 24 Cavendish Rd Crewe Cheshire CW2 8SW. CUFORO publish their first newsletter also, along the lines of the UAPROL data sheets. CHRYSIS 78 number 2 is also out with critical pieces on Ray Stanfords new book 'Socorro Saucer' and on UFOs by an astronomer! (c/o 48 Britania Place Redcar Cleveland) BUFORA JOURNAL (Nov/Dec) has an article on Brinsley Le Poer Trench and his books plus a rundown on BUFORAs year. Finally, the ever stimulating MUFOB reaches us with No 12 (Autumn 78). This has an interesting analysis of car stop statistics plus part two of Nigel Watson's detailed investigation of the junior contactee - Paul Bennett.

Don't forget!!! The next issue (Jan 79) will be the first in our new coordinated publication output - NORTHERN UFOLOGY special on the theme "UFOs as extraterrestrial spaceships?" - If you either believe or disbelieve get your views down on paper NOW (must be into the editors by Christmas) How about more theme ideas??? As you can see we have revamped the sightings section also, and this will be a feature of the newlook NORTHERN UFO NEWS first appearing with the Feb 79 issue.

This is the last issue if your subscription runs out... £3 will bring you all issues of NORTHERN UFOLOGY AND NORTHERN UFO NEWS in 1979. Please renew early.

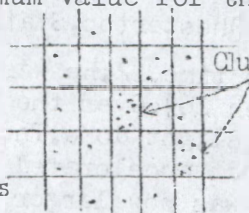
NB Jenny Randles asks it to be noted that the article published under her name and entitled HUMANOIDS INVADE ENGLAND (Ancient Astronauts - Feb 78) was severely altered by this unscrupulous American publication. The photographs (almost certainly fakes) of alien computer complexes and mummified spacemen were included without her knowledge or consent.

I was very pleased to hear that UFOIN had agreed to assist the BUDC in its efforts to test this hypothesis, and I would like to explain what the project will entail and what we hope to gain by it.

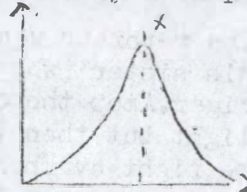
The testing requires only a small team and a series of phases which are conducted over as long a time as proves necessary. Hence there are no time pressures to conclude the work.

Phase One: Plot on a very large scale map the $\frac{3}{4}$ position where a witness was standing at the time of the event (ie approximate locality of the witness related experience). Do this for EVERY case. (Using of course the NUFON files) Devise a grid system of optimum unit area and endorse the map accordingly. If the hypothesis is TRUE (ie that anomalous phenomena do tend to be geographically linked) then there will exist an optimum value for the unit size where noticeable clusters of events will manifest.

If the hypothesis is FALSE this will not be the case. If so then the project would have to be abandoned, but if an optimum unit size shows clusters we then proceed to phase Two. This involves the checking of all available record sources which detail paranormal phenomena (ie fortune telling, freak weather, poltergeist activity etc). If the cluster



Density of report



x = optimum unit area size

areas show marked proneness to these other paranormal phenomena as well as UFOs then the hypothesis is strengthened. If not it is weakened. Phase Three involves the checking of all astronomical, meteorological and seismic records to see if any major disturbances involving large quantities of energy took place just prior to, during or just after the event in the cluster area (these can be ANYWHERE in the world or in space provided they tally chronologically). If there is no match here the hypothesis fails and some other factors must be found to account for the clustering. If there is a relationship apparent move to Phase Four. Study the geological structure of the cluster areas to ascertain if any faults, crystal deposits or water channels exist. Phase Five involves the complete repetition of phases two to four for a unit area that did not show a cluster in the original study (ie had low UFO activity). This control sample must not, of course, follow the pattern found for the cluster areas. If it does not then the hypothesis is successfully tested and we can start to make reasoned predictions about future trends (ie sighting dates and locations). Workers such as Delair, Dutton and Saunders would be useful here.

This is something that requires no skills, just good old fashioned detective work and can be done NOW with the data available. How about offering to help NUFON?

LOW DEFINITION ACTIVITY

6722	Summer 1967	Noon	Stationary silver dot	SUFORS Level D	Poss Balloon
77/298	23 Feb 1977	18.00	Gt Barr, West Midlands	UFOSIS Level A	Unidentified
(Two witnesses. White star that hovered and then shot away at great speed)					
77/301	23 Jul 1977	02.30	Brecon, Powys	UFOSIS Level C	Insufficient
(Zig zagging white lights seen over 10 mins period)					
78/131	2 Jan 1978	18.45	Uttoxeter, Staffs	UFORA Level C	Aircraft?
(Red lights that seemed to do 90° turn. Flashing like aircraft lights)					
78/133	1 Apr 1978	21.00	Crewe, Cheshire	UFOR Level A	Left open
(8 yr old girl saw 4 yellow lights, set on square pattern, rotating)					
78/134	21 Jul 1978		Wolverhampton, W Midlands	UFOSIS & UFORA	Positive Venus
78/135	31 Jul 1978		Darlington, Durham	01.18 CHRYSIS	Pos Helicopter?
(Witness saw searchlight on clouds from within, then a flapping noise on same course)					
78/136	Aug 1978	22.30	Stone, Staffs	BUFORA Level B	Meteor
78/138	2 Sep 1978	21.15	Winsford, Cheshire	UFOIN Level A	Unidentified
(Two white lights swinging back and forth on zig, zag right angle courses)					
78/139	5 Sep 1978	18.00	Bridgnorth, Salop	UFORA Level B	Aircraft?
78/150	5 Nov 1978	19.15	Latchford, Cheshire	MUFORA Level C	Insufficient
(Bright red spotlight. Hovered 2 mins. Became white and faded out)					

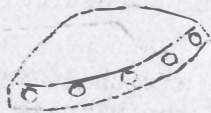
MEDIUM DEFINITION ACTIVITY

Late 1950's

Rugeley, Staffs

BUFORA (Investigation Stephen Banks)

This incident would have been of great interest had an investigation been conducted at the time. As it is, due to age, it cannot be fully evaluated. There were at least 7 witnesses (including the reporter - a mature lady). The site was an old farm converted into flats. It was night. Alerted by one neighbour all watched for approximately 15 minutes a large silver disc with a dome atop. It had a row of portholes that radiated house-like light. It was large and close, low over adjacent fields. During the events it did not move, but nobody was brave enough to approach it. It left very suddenly by rising and accelerating away. There was no sound. It was never reported but officials (MOD?) appeared soon after to query the witnesses....CASE 5913 Level B
UNIDENTIFIED



Unknown 1968 21.00

Chesterton, Staffs

UFORA (Investigation Martin Keatman)

The reporter was, at the time, 12. He was walking down the street with his mother to meet his sister (who was then 26). Over the horizon to the S, elevation 15, was an orange cigar. Atop there was a slight dome. The two considered a sky reflection of some ground light but then the object accelerated very suddenly, travelling within five seconds to be right overhead. Size was now larger than a tennis ball at arms length. As it hovered several people from the street gathered to watch it. His sister arrived and saw it and he returned home for his father to watch it. After being visible 3 minutes it shot away to the east at direct right angles to its first course.....CASE 6811 Level A
UNIDENTIFIED

Oct-Dec 1969 20.00

Blurton, Staffs

BUFORA (Investigation Stephen Banks)

Chief witness is now a HNC Chemistry student. With a friend he observed for 10-30 seconds an object that is described as a upturned bunsen-burner flame. Colour was blue/violet. No solid object was seen within it. Estimated size was that of a halfpenny at arms length. It climbed steadily from close to ground level to elevation 30, before dematerialising suddenly. Although the weather was cloudy the witness is adamant that it was not simply obscured. OS REF. 118/ 898424. Evaluation difficult due to lapsed time, but investigator considered possibility of a missile/flare.....CASE 6912 Level B
INSUFFICIENT DATA



The case of the Little Green Men MED (L)

June 1977 16.15

Coldstream, Berwickshire

BUFORG (Investigation Alan Price)

Three boys - aged 8 at the time - were playing on Lennel Mount, very close to the Anglo/Scottish border. Cameron Lunn describes a strange object seen to hover over a field within 100 ft. Size almost that of two cars end to end. It was an oval which glowed dull white and had a green light underneath and a blue one atop. A row of small lights girdled the middle. On top was a dome containing one large window. The UFO hovered for 30 seconds and then moved N, descending behind trees and landing. The lights were seen flashing through trees. After one minute it took off straight into the sky. One of the other boys says he saw several small green figures inside the window and writing on the side (X and some numbers). Investigators feel the event to be factual, but this may be embroidery.....CASE 77/300 Level A
UNIDENTIFIED

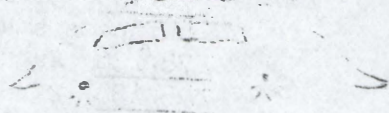


August 17 1978 03.00

Newcastle, Staffs

UFORA (Investigation Martin Keatman)

Mr Hunt is an intelligent 19yr old university student (studying Maths & Electronics) He was stripping paint and listening to a record through headphones. Thus he had lost track of the time. To the ENE he noticed two bright 'stars' coloured white. As they approached and passed by at elevation 75 he saw a clear shape. A dome atop with protruberances to the sides. In the middle were two windows, like a split-screen. They were pouring out dull houselight. Motion was slower than an aircraft with a slight waver (the university is near an airport). He took off his phones and heard a distinct and unusual buzz/hum as it passed over. Duration 3 mins..CASE 78/137 Level A
UNIDENTIFIED



MULTI-WITNESS ENCOUNTER OVER BIRMINGHAM

September 22 1978 20.30 on Birmingham, West Mid UFOSIS (Investigation Ted Horton & Geoff Westwood)

This detailed investigation of a multi-witness phenomena will be reviewed in FSR. There are four known sets of independent witnesses for phenomena between 21.15 and 21.30, although what appears to have been the same object was seen at around 20.30 also. The descriptions and directions vary but a basic triangular shape with a mass of lights is in evidence. There were three witnesses at West Bromwich (A), who saw the object three separate times. There was a bright white light at the fore and two at the rear. Inside were a red and two green. None were flashing. A yellow fluorescent light surrounded the triangle. A sound (described as droning and roaring) was heard. At Great Barr, a few minutes later, a man and his two children saw a similar object (B). Describes as a horned shape with a mass of white and red lights. This was silent. When he saw his wife she related a sighting of a white light before he mentioned their sighting. Other workmates at



B



Perry Barr, where she was working, had seen it. This tallied with the other sightings. A few minutes later again, at Sheldon (near Birmingham airport) two witnesses observed a diamond shape with white, red and green lights (very similar to the West Bromwich witnesses). One of these witnesses says he heard a faint rumbling. The only aircraft that was in the area was a Beech lightplane that landed at 21.35. This could have been responsible for the Sheldon sighting (it is most unlikely for the earlier ones). Even so the witnesses were familiar with aircraft living so close to the airport (under a mile) and the wind was not taking sound away from them. In addition the consistent descriptions of this phenomenon are totally unlike an aircraft. Birmingham Airport had calls from witnesses who wanted to be anonymous describing a very similar object. One sighting (from Wednesbury) was at 23.00.....CASE 78/140 Level A

UNIDENTIFIED

October 5 1978 18.40 Newbiggin, Northumbria BUFORG (Investigation Alan Price & Norman Vest)

Many people over the area surrounding this NE seaside resort say they saw a strange object hovering above the town between 20 to 7 and 7pm. Mrs Joan Porthouse describes how she saw it hover over the school. It was exceptionally bright (this is attested to by the other witnesses) and was shaped like an oval with a dome on top. Colour was a silvery white. Estimated height was about 100 feet and the size about that of a double decker bus. Mrs. Porthouse watched it hover for 5 minutes before it accelerated away to the east, heading out over the sea. Its speed was described as being 'unbelievable'. No sound was heard by any witness but the weather was windy.....CASE 78/141 Level A

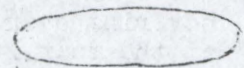
INSUFFICIENT DATA

THE UFOs RETURN TO ANGLESEY

October 6 & 8 1978 Penysarn, Anglesey Investigation by Keven Babbs

Penysarn is a little village between Llanerchymedd (the scene of the famous Sept 1st incidents...see Nov 78 issue) and Amlwch. Both incidents involve independent witnesses and were independently reported to the police on the island.

On the 6th at 19.30 Mrs Hawkins (a very articulate elderly lady) observed a large red sausage moving slowly N-S over Parys Mountain and by Rhosybol. It seemed to reflect the rays of an unusually vivid sunset. The witness was familiar with aircraft and airships and is certain that this was something very different. RAF Valley had nothing on radar and no aircraft in the area.

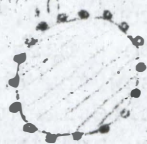


On the 8th at 22.40 Huw Williams (aged 18) was riding through the village when an orange light passed over his car and hovered to the NW. He stopped at the home of two friends, also aged 18, and they came out to look.

At 23.00 they saw the object approaching. As it passed by it was seen to be like two saucers joined together with a slight dome atop and at the bottom. A black band joined them. An orange fluorescent glow surrounded the object (see 78/144 - page eight!). As it passed by it changed shape into a rough triangle. There were square protrusions at the front underside. Neighbours Mr & Mrs Pritchard were called out to see it also. It moved SW slowly and then just blinked out. There were no aircraft in the area. RAF Valley had nothing on radar. CASES 78/143/3 Level A



A factory worker on the nightshift (Mr JB) first saw the object to the NE. He knew it was odd because it was very low and unusual. He shouted to Mr O'Brien, the factory security guard (ex RAF Police Sergeant). He came out and saw it too as it moved very slowly to the SW (towards Trafford Park's major industrial complex). It consisted of a round dark shape surrounded by a ring of about 15 bright red lights. Inside were two green lights. The whole thing seemed to rotate as it progressed. Height was estimated as only a few feet, but it seemed to climb as it moved away. There was no sound. Size was estimated as a tennis ball at arms length. Duration about 3 minutes. No natural phenomena have been found to account. The weather was clear sky and cool with many stars visible, but hardly any wind..... CASE 78/146 Level A UNIDENTIFIED



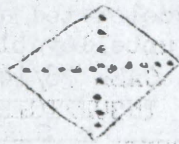
October 28 1978 22.45 Warrington, Cheshire Investigation Brian Fishwick

Mrs Joyce Blackburn was putting out the milkbottles when she saw an unusual light in the SW. She watched it as it hovered over the garage roof for some while and then called her husband and two children (aged 16 and 14). They saw it hover for a few minutes and then start to pulsate. They tried to view it through binoculars but the light was so intense it hurt their eyes. Then it started to move slowly towards them, went out for a second and when it came back on appeared as a round disc with a slight dome at top that was tilted away from them. On the underside were three red light arranged round the rim. It passed overhead quite low making a faint humming sound and moved away to the NE. Total duration was seven minutes. The witnesses then called the police. The object had first appeared to be hovering over Fiddlers Ferry power station (scene of several recent encounters). It disappeared in the direction of Bold Power Station. The investigator feels misidentification is unlikely,..... CASE 78/147 Level C INSUFFICIENT DATA



November 8 1978 21.30 St Helens, Merseyside Investigation Brian Fishwick

A group of young boys were playing outside when they saw a strange lighted object in the east. At first they took it to be an aircraft, but it came closer and passed by virtually right overhead. They became very frightened because they realised that it was something very odd. It was the apparent size of a 50p piece at arms length, seemingly low and yet it made no sound at all. In shape it was like a diamond, coloured silver/white with a mass of lights in a cross. These were red, yellow, green and blue. None were flashing. The object moved slowly west and after being in view about two minutes was over Bold Power Station. It suddenly flashed and disappeared in a second. Note the comparison with Report 78/149 (P.8) CASE 78/151 Level A UNIDENTIFIED



November 16 1978 17.00 Marston, Cheshire Investigation Michael Lenz

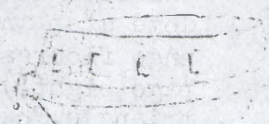
Two 18 yr old girls returning from work over the bridge by the salt works saw a light hovering over fields to the NE. It appeared oval and coloured golden with a red light at the rear. It moved slowly and then a greenish haze surrounded it. It contracted to a pin point and vanished. Total duration 2 minutes. At 19.45 the witnesses say they saw it again, much higher and moving quite fast..... CASE 78/152 Level C INSUFFICIENT DATA

SUMMARY OF MEDIUM DEFINITION ACTIVITY: 12 cases (8 unidentified 4 Insufficient data)

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE FIRST KIND ACTIVITY

May 1957 18.30 Bolton, Gtr Manchester Investigation Brian Hartley

A draughtsman was on a high vantage point (980' ASL) to view a comet with his 10x binoculars when he spotted a 'smudge'. Viewing it, he received a profound shock. It was a silver disc with opaque windows. The very bright sun made the outline hazy and a red/green glow surrounded the periphery. The witness felt a tingling and 'electricity' in the hairs of his neck (probably psychological). After 14 minutes the object took off very fast. It moved from over Winter Hill to the west and was lost over the Irish Sea. The object was seen clearly through binoculars CASE 5715 Level C INSUFFICIENT DATA



May 29 1977

23.00

Darlington, Durham

Investigation Christine Pickett
and Ron Benson - CHRYSIS

The witness is an articulate and very reliable lady (aged 60). A retired civil servant who actively helps the old people in the neighbourhood. She went to bed at 20.00 and fell asleep. At 23.00 she awoke to see a bright ball of fire, like the sun, through her window. After a moment it went out. Then a bright yellow 'star' appeared, followed by a second, then a third, close by. These seemed to merge to reform the ball of fire, which flashed erratically at the edges. It was slightly lower in the sky. It shortly disappeared. This whole process was repeated several times with the object descending onto the roof (apparently) of a building (the witness says it looked like it landed). As it descended she felt herself being pulled hypnotically towards it. The pulling grew stronger and stronger until she had to leap from bed and close the curtains at once. All effects then stopped. She was amazed to note the time was 12.45 (ie 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours had elapsed). The witness reluctantly described a psychic background with various ESP experiences since childhood. This may be relevant. The investigators conclude that this strange experience is genuine. Were there any bright stars or planets visible about this time? May 1977 was, of course, the time of the big wave... CASE 77/299 Level A

UNIDENTIFIED

UFO INSPECTS SCHOOLBOY

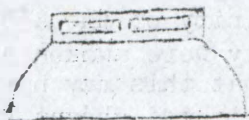
CE 1 Psycho

February 2 1978 13.05

West Bromwich, West Midlands

Investigation Martin Keatman

A 10 yr old boy was returning to school along a normally very busy route when he saw an object in the WSW. It was stationary and the apparent size of a pea at arms length. The colour was silver and at first he could make out no clear shape. Then it suddenly accelerated at a fantastic speed and hovered directly above him. The height was estimated as about a mile. When approaching it had appeared like a dome with a flat top and bottom, coloured greyish with two rectangular 'windows' on the top portion. These were a darker grey. When overhead it was completely round. It hovered overhead for about two minutes, as the boy stood in fear. Then it suddenly accelerated away again instantly to the south



and disappeared. The boy told his parents on return home, who attest to the fact that it severely disturbed him. He was very withdrawn for several days. He says that the strangest thing was that nobody passed him on the street and no traffic past by whilst the object was there, despite the business of the area and the time of day. The investigator can attest to the normal business of the area. The boy wishes no publicity and will not even allow the case to be discussed with his teacher. The investigator found no logical explanation..... CASE 78/132 Level A

UNIDENTIFIED

FLOATING TELEPHONE KIOSK OVER CHESHIRE

CE 1 EM(?)

October 29 1978

23.15

Warrington, Cheshire

Investigation: Brian Fishwick
and John Griffiths

Nineteen year old Janet Fletcher is a very intelligent girl, who has recently sat the police entrance examination. On this evening she was returning home by car from Wollston to her home in Newton-Le-Willows, Merseyside, passing through the centre of the town of Warrington. Approaching the traffic lights by the Central Station the car radio, that was on, was suddenly inundated with interference. This was only transitory, and it may of course be totally unrelated (in the centre of a built up area any number of reasons for such effects are conceivable). However, something caught her eye to the east, behind the station. It was hovering at an estimated height of about 200 feet and brightly lit. She first considered it to be lights atop a new tower of some sort. However, slowly it registered that this was an object in the sky. It looked like a bell and had a bright light on top. It was made up of a series of tiered squarish windows (darker parts). Overall it was white. The witness describes it as like seeing a telephone kiosk at some distance down the road - standing out in the black night. After about thirty seconds it tilted and began to move away, descending behind buildings. At the same time the lights changed and the car had to move on. When open sky was next visible the object had gone..... CASE 78/148 Level B



UNIDENTIFIED

November 1 1978 19.45 Salford, Greater Manchester MUFORA (Investigation Jenny Randle and Jeff Porter)

Jenny Randles was going into the lounge at her Irlam home when she was called into the bedroom to her father who was fiddling with his radio. It was drowned with static on VHF. After several seconds efforts were aborted and the channel switched to medium wave. On going indoors to watch (non-effected) TV a roar like a low jet was heard. Aircraft from Manchester are not unusual but not this low. Momentarily watching through the window a row of four white lights were seen to move N. The whole incident was then forgotten until Jeff Porter rang to say three boys (aged 13/14) had been terrified in Whitefield (10 m N of Irlam) by a low giant object that roared like a plane. It was a mass of none flashing lights (including a vivid blue). ATC at Manchester insisted there were no aircraft in the area. Whilst he investigated these reports Jenny obtained further stories from 9 children in Irlam, who explained and drew what they had seen inside two hours fully independantly (all believing it was just a low aircraft of unusual type). There is great consistency (especially the none flashing lights and the vivid blue one). Further checks with potential sources confirmed there were no aircraft in the area at the time - so what was it? Note that the NE Cheshire area had quite a flap around that time (see previous pages), including a case at Warrington (9 m W of Irlam) with EM effects (P.7) and a St Helens object that is very similar (P.6).. CASE 78/149 Level A UNIDENTIFIED

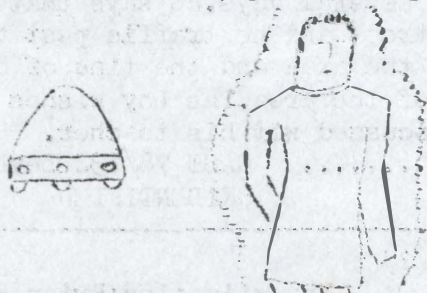


JR Whitefield Irlam
Three of the 13 drawings on file

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE THIRD KIND (?) CE 3 A

October 8 1978 23.30 Lowton, Gtr Manchester Investigation: DIGAP & MUFORA (Peter Hough & Stephen Balon)

For a couple of days around this incident the immediate vicinity of the A580 (East Lancs Road) near Lowton was inundated with sightings. A family were awoken at 2 AM on the 10th by a wailing screeching noise (it is believed that this may have been a new type of police siren). Another report links this with a lighted object seen to descend towards the road. At 21.30 on the 10th Mrs Grime her two sons (age 21 and 15) and a friend (aged 21) reported a large silvery dome with three 'bumps' underneath.



From near Leigh. It moved to the W. Three white lights were on it, flashing in and out, as it moved over slowly making a faint hum. It was in view 5 minutes. The CE 3A that might relate to this flap comes from 38 yr old Mr Tranter. His wife was dozing in the car as they drove along. For a few seconds his headlights caught a figure standing in the middle of the grass verge in the centre of the road. It was human like, over six feet tall and wearing a reflective silvery garment of three quarter

length. There were no seams or zips. The most unusual aspect was that the figure was surrounded by an orange glowing aura (see the Anglesey report from the same night - P 5). On glancing back through the rear of the car the reflection and the glow were still visible and there was no other traffic to cause headlight reflection. His wife claims pronounced telepathic abilities and three weeks before on the same stretch of road she alone says she saw a figure dressed like a coal miner (circa 1918) complete with flat cap, scarf, belted jacket and trousers gathered at the ankles. The figure seemed to be floating above the grass verge. The area was once full of coalmines. Some are still worked. Whilst one obviously can speculate on the possible connections of these seemingly paranormal experiences there is insufficient evidence... CASE 78/144 Level A

INSUFFICIENT DATA

SUMMARY OF CLOSE ENCOUNTER ACTIVITY: 6 CASES (4 UNIDENTIFIED 2 INSUFFICIENT DATA)

Summary: This issue contains 29 cases (11 low 12 Medium 5 CE1 1 CE 3A)
6 have probable identifications (3 Aircraft types, 1 balloon, 1 meteor, 1 star)
9 have insufficient data (probably identifiable)
14 are unidentified at present (48%)... higher than normal by some margin.
Of the 1978 cases there are 6 from Cheshire 3 West Midlands 3 Greater Manchester
3 Staffordshire 3 Anglesey 2 Northumbria 1 Merseyside 1 Salop 1 Durham
The period October 5 - 10 generated 6 reports (October 8 was notable)